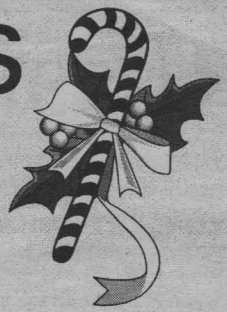


School Judicial Board
Movie Reviews
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Mouth of the River

Issue 2

Mouth of the River is a Publication of the ORHS Journalism Class

December 22, 1995

School Board Members To Tackle 4 Major Issues

By Heather Jacques and Marriah Shields

The 1995-96 school board has been discussing series of major issues since new members have been elected.

Four of the major issues that have been discussed are: the middle school expansion, Mr. Powers becoming principal of the middle school, the three new school board members, and space at the high school.

The new members include: David Brown, Jay Flanders, and Robert Sterndale. The school board consist of eight members, which meet twice a month. Joan Valentine is the Chairman who leads the group into solving many tasks.

An issue that will become even more of an issue in the future is high school space. The school board decided to form a committee to brainstorm ideas of solutions.

The committee consist of three representatives from the district towns, two community business people, a student representative, a non-voting school board representative, a long range planning committee representative, and administrator, and a representative from the facility assessment committee, for a total of ten representatives from the facility assessment committee.

At first, the student was going to be the non-voter, but it was opposed. The school board representative is non-voting because the committee needs to have an odd number of votes and the board member will get to vote in the final board vote anyway.

Another space issue at the high school is parking. The board is well aware of the problem but unsure of what to do about it. A couple solutions have been thought about, though. For example: maybe some spaces near the tennis courts or that side of the building. Double parking was also a suggestion. Painting lines so parallel parking could be done

neatly is another example, but ORHS can't do anything to it because the town owns that land. One other solution brought up was letting the kids that ride the bus leave earlier than the kids who drive. This would encourage the kids to take the bus.

"That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard," said junior Dave Woolf.

"Maybe if they had a bus for after school activities," said Kate Sanders.

Other issues like ORHS' accreditation, curriculum issues, and the budget process are also being discussed. Time is always being put into bettering education of Oyster River students.

The problem with the construction of the middle school is over budgeting. A solution needed to take place, so the board brainstormed ideas, keeping in mind that the old building had already been added on to many times already. They had to figure out a way to mend the problems of: the temperature being too hot, strange odors, lots of people getting sick, and most of all space.

The main problem was they only had 5.1 million dollars to do it. The board ended with a plan as follows: instead of renovating the core of the middle school, they decided to renovate as much as they needed to, to have only the library and the cafeteria in the core and move the gym to the north end. This plan still allowed four new classrooms and made it so that they didn't have to demolish one of the walls they would have before. Also it allowed a cut in the cost, allowing the school board to stay within the budget.

This plan consisted of two phases. One which happened last summer, the fixing of the heating system and ventilation systems, electrical wiring system, and the sewer system. Phase two will occur this year extending to the summer. The reason it will extend to the summer is because there are 700 kids in the middle school during the school year, and things could be potentially dangerous. Dur-

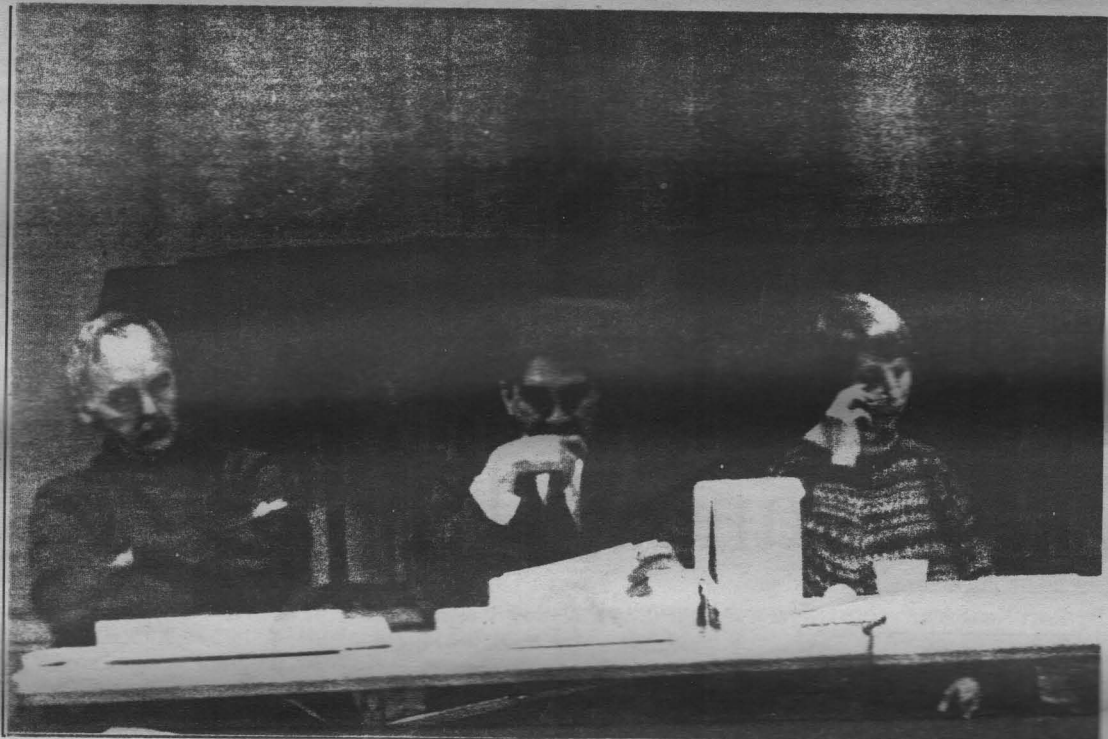


Photo by Marriah Shields

School Board members Robert Sterndale, Al Porsche, and Joan Valentine.

ing phase two the remainder of construction will take place.

"In any major building project problems are going to arise, but we have had succession with the first phase," said Chairperson of the board, Mrs. Joan Valentine.

Another big issue talked about was Mr. Powers becoming principal in the middle school. Positive feelings were expressed by Mrs. Valentine and Mr. Porsche.

"He brings to the role, a lot of experience and stability," said Mrs. Valentine.

"Powers knows everyone and the system. He also has 26 years of educational experience," said Mr.

Porsche. Hiring Mr. Powers also saved money. If they had to hire an interim, it would have cost money to hire someone to train the interim. The interim wouldn't have even gotten to know the system until the end of the year anyway.

Mr. Lowy, who was principal at Mast-Way Elementary for 25 years, had just retired last June, but offered to help by being a temporary principal until they could find a replacement. When they found Powers, Mr. Lowy was very excited to return to his retirement.

Another issue that is still kind of tipsy is the three new school board

members. Mr. David Brown, Mr. Jay Flanders and Mr. Robert Sterndale, who has been voted in by the board to replace Mrs. Georgina Burt, who moved and had to retire. Mr. Sterndale has had five years of previous experience on the board.

"Personality was a bigger problem when we started the year," said Mr. Flanders.

"I believe that its just philosophical differences," said Mr. Porsche.

"I think its a good thing to have different opinions and various background, because that's what the community is made up of," said Mr. Flanders.

Powers ORMS Principal

By Kyle Francis

Unable to find a new principal for the Oyster River Middle School, Superintendent John Powers has been named by the School Board as interim principal for the remainder of the school year.

When Principal Tom Andrews retired in July 1995 a search for a new principal came up empty. July is considered too late to search for a new teacher or principal for the up coming school year. John Lowy, who had retired as principal of Mast Way, was named Interim Principal. In November Mr. Lowy was replaced by Superintendent Powers. Mr. Lowy still remains as a consultant focus-

ing on curriculum and personnel development.

Being in the Middle School lets Mr. Powers see the results of his decisions as superintendent, and "to make the best use of the available money and make this the best school possible," said John Powers. He cited stability and leadership during the transition to a grade 5-8 school as the reason he accepted the position. "The motivation is to provide stability for the people who go to the Middle School right now."

Ms. Winterbottom didn't feel one job was distracting from the other. She still speaks to Superintendent Powers about once a week. Mr. Powers credited Mr. Lowy and Assistant Principal Bette Chamberlain with helping reduce the work load at the Middle School.

ORMS has suffered form many problems lately. There is a sexual harassment lawsuit and the additional construction was over budgeted. Both problems are dealt with at the Superintendent position. Mr. Powers said the lawsuit was "old news" and that "once it goes to court we let the lawyers handle it." The budget problem was solved by scaling back the construction of the new core area, the area to contain the cafeteria, tech lab, and new administration offices.

At the end of the school year Mr. Powers is planning to be replaced by a permanent principal for ORMS. He shall still be superintendent, a position he describes as an advocate for students at the school board. "I consider it a privilege to present ideas on behalf of the students."



Photo by Kyle Francis

Superintendent John Powers at the Middle School.

Russians React

By Meegan Smith

Since 1990 an exchange program between Russia and ORHS has been occurring. This December a group of Russians came here to go to school, and live with American families. "This program is set up to be a cultural exchange, not a vacation. If a vacation is what they are looking for, go to a travel agency," said Alex Herlihy who has partly organized the exchange with the help of Beverly Conway.

Mr. Herlihy started the cultural change. After going to Russia eight years ago he and his consultant set up the exchange. "I am a history teacher. What better way is there to learn history than to have an exchange program? It is the ultimate field trip," said Mr. Herlihy. He believes that students can't get the full cultural difference in hotels, and need to be "one with one" with an American family. He believes the trip is "a wonderful experience that brings out the differences and friendships between the two countries. You won't

know what it is until you experience it."

Mrs. Conway helped to organize this trip with Mr. Herlihy. She also helped the Oyster River students take a trip last April. "As a teacher I was interested into going to places I could teach about. Now that we have a Russian exchange program I believe it is an awesome experience."

The Russian students only had nice things to say. Two Russian students, Olga and Marina, were positive about the trip, "When we got off the plane nothing seemed to be different, but school was a different story. The library, cafeteria, classes, and the ages of the students are all different."

Many comments were made about the friendliness of OR students, "All of the people smile and talk to you. In Russia people are so boring, not like you."

"This program has given the Russians a chance to adapt to our culture and giving the students of ORHS a chance to adapt to there's." Said Kate Sanders. There were many different



This years' Russian students visit Wagon Hill in Durham.

reasons for the Russians students coming here, "see new things", "finally see the United States", "for the experience", and "to socialize."

The American hosts seemed to have had a very successful week. Meghan Ricker went to Russia last year and had two girls stay at her house. "They are a lot like us in some ways. They have the same conver-

sations and interests. I got sick of showing them things I see everyday over and over," said Meghan.

Meghan also explained how some families in Russia have different rules. "In Russia, the girl I stayed with could only stay out until six p.m., but when she came here, we stayed out until one or two. She was shocked!"

Senate To Work On Judicial Board

By Amos Goss

Last year the Senate brought the school bon-fires, dances, and school-wide assemblies. They are now working on issues that could change ORHS and its future.

The school's Senate is broken up into different sections called committees. For example, one committee is called "School Rules." This committee looks at the school rules and makes suggestions on what can be changed.

One of the major projects being worked on by the Senate is a Judicial branch that would be made up of faculty members and students. It would allow students who received a punishment that they felt they did not deserve an opportunity to have a "trial by jury."

How would this work? According to Senate member Eric Lang, "You would tell your story, and the administrator that gave the punishment would tell his/her story. Based on this, the jury would decide if you were guilty or not guilty." When can we expect this to be in effect? "By the end of this year or the beginning of this year," said Senate moderator Erin Bostrom.

The Senate should have a "constitution" by February vacation. It would list what the Senate could and could not do. For example the Senate can look at the student handbook and try to create new rules or ban some rules. "Come forward and tell what you want changed," Bostrom continued. "If you have an idea we can try to enforce it."

Senate seniors are going to miss the results of all of their hard work through out their student council and school Senate years. "It's too bad that we'll miss some of the changes that we're making," said Bostrom.

All-State

Musicians Selected For Concerts

By Lori Neubauer

On April 11th through the 13th, eight ORHS musicians will attend the New Hampshire Music Educators' Association All-State Music Festival.

The musicians will perform with some of the best musicians in the state; it will take place at Dover High School.

Musicians from all high schools in the state of New Hampshire auditioned at Rundlett Jr. High School in Concord, in November, to get a chance to participate in the All-State concert. The musicians are expected to learn the music on their own before the festival and in April, when they all come together, work with a guest conductor. This year's guest conductor for the All-State orchestra is Dr. Edward Markward from Rhode Island College.

During the auditions, each of the musicians had to either sing or play

a prepared piece, sight read a selection of music chosen by the judges, and sing or play five scales.

Senior Jen Winslow was selected as the number one violinist out of 67 others. This year will be Jen's fourth

"My favorite part about All-State are the people that I meet, the friendships I make, and the music we make together."

year in the All-State concert. "My favorite part about All-State are the people that I meet, the friendships I make, and the music we make together," commented Winslow.

"I'm really proud to say that I belong to a school with such musical talent," said senior Karen Mengers-O'Brien.

The musicians that auditioned for the jazz concert and/or the classical concert were junior Megan Smith who was chosen to be in both the jazz and classical concerts. She placed 37th out of 122 other singers.

Senior Rebecca England placed 2nd out of 19 cellists. Freshman flute player Christina Mair placed 11th out of 76 others. Jeremy England, also a freshman, placed 28th out of 67 violinists.

Junior Kurt Weisman placed 11th out of 19 other trombone players. Senior Sarah Tanguay placed 10th among 67 violinists.

Junior Gabe Merton was chosen as the number one oboe player out of 24 and the best

clarinet player out of 61. When asked what he enjoyed most about the All-State program he answered: "It's nice to meet new people...especially girls."

Music Director Marc LaForce says that he is very proud of his students. "These students have all worked extremely hard on their instruments and audition materials to get to this festi-

val, and they deserve your congratulations."

On Saturday, December 16, Gabe Merton, Kurt Weisman, and Megan Smith, along with Marc LaForce drove down to Connecticut for the All-New England auditions. The results of their auditions will soon be available and will determine whether they will attend the All-New England music festival next spring.

Seniors Prepare For Plays In Spring

One-Act List Not Yet Finalized

By Krissee Cook

Lights! Camera! Action! Senior directed plays are a tradition at ORHS. This spring seniors will direct one-act plays they have written or chosen.

According to Performing Arts Council president, Ashley Brown, there are currently seven students submitting senior-directed plays this year. The seniors must submit an application to the Performing Arts Council to have their plays approved.

There will be two sets of performances. The first set will be February 29 and March 1 and 2. The second set will be performed March 17-19.

To direct a play a senior must have been in more than one play and have had a large role in one. They must also have some knowledge with the technical side of the stage. In reference to the content of the plays, Ashley Brown said, "There are no specific guidelines."

In addition to approving the applications of other seniors' plays, Brown is also directing "Life is only Seven Points," by David Rush. Her experiences include: a role in the 'Tempest', 'Stage Door', and past senior directeds 'Summer People' and 'Rest Stop'. She also took a year long class

in acting.

Several past performers are planning to return to this year's auditions taking place after midterm exams for what Jeanemarie Celantano hopes to be, "a well prepared, wonderful cast of people." Celantano starred in past graduates Roger Lamarque and Lindsey Oakes' "Suicide in B flat," and hopes to participate again this year.

Emma Rous, who organizes the senior directed plays, has worked with them for the past eight years.

"The music department put the plays on before I was here," said Mrs. Rous. The Performing Arts Council and Mrs. Rous would not

release the names of those directing the plays because they are not yet finalized.

Attendance at the plays is expected to be as high this year, as last year's plays were a huge success.



Photo by Aubree Nygren

ORHS All-State Musicians



Photo by Aubree Nygren

Ashley Brown and Mrs. Rous discuss Ashley's senior-directed to be put on in March.

Video Production Class Working For Cable TV Spot

By Jenn Hogan

Mr. Gasowski's Videotape Production class is trying to implement a television magazine on cable for the community about the high school.

This television production, if it gets air time, will air once a month for the rest of the school year.

Mr. Gasowski said: "This was tried before in 1981 under the name 'S.C.A.N' (School Community Arts

Community Service

Helping Others Through Nine Different Activities

By Becky Soderholm

Since 1992 Oyster River has been helping the residents of the Seacoast community by donating their time and themselves. Students have been volunteering to help children, battered women, abandoned animals, and the homeless, among others.

Now OR has nine programs for helping others in need: Big Buddy, Soup Kitchen, Humane Society, Portsmouth Children's Museum, Special Olympics, Friend to the Elderly, Therapeutic Riding, Peer Tutoring, and A Safe Place.

Therapeutic Riding is the latest addition to community service. Up until last year "students from our school have been going, but not through the school," said Head Coordinator Caroline Anderson. In Therapeutic Riding, volunteers help disabled people ride horses, but experience with horses is not necessary.

Some programs such as Humane Society are planned through the school and the volunteers go together once or twice a week on a regular basis. When asked about getting drivers to volunteer, Caroline Anderson said "It's very, very difficult."

Other programs like Portsmouth Children's Museum and Big Buddy are done more on an individual basis; volunteers provide their own transportation and decide when they will go by themselves.

Community service also plans other seasonal events such as Thanksgiving food drives and wrapping presents at the Fox Run Mall in December. The food goes to needy families in the area and the profits from wrapping go to the Salvation Army or other charitable groups.

The community service committee is made up of faculty advisor Mrs.

Network). The second time this was tried was in 1986 and the name was 'Video Out'." At this time there is not a name for the program.

The Advisories suggested having a certain part of the program dedicated to the advisories, the School Senate, sports, and some teacher spots. These are just ideas that have been suggested to appear on the first program.

"This year the class will

be able to do a lot of our own digital work, such as segment titles, because of the computer applications that we have," said Mr. Gasowski.

Mr. Gasowski also said that this will be a project that has a real audience and that can be recognized and associated with the school. He also said that

"there are still a lot of hurtles yet to cover. We hope to get our first program tape done by Christmas."

Video Production Class member Scott Martin said: "I hope that this will bring the community into the high school and will show what is going on directly."

Class member Cozette

Carrol added that "the whole idea is that by doing this project we will put what is taught in class to the test." She also said that she is "surprised at the quality of work put into this by the students."

The class is hoping that this will take off, and will continue through the next semester.

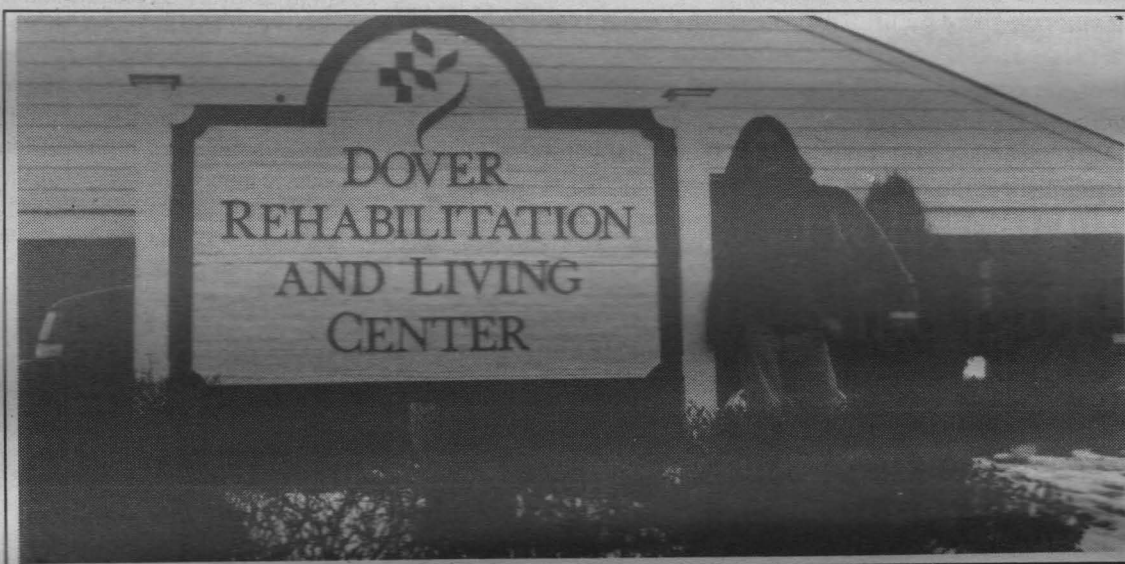


Photo by Rebecca Soderholm

Aija Goldberg standing by the Dover Rehabilitation Clinic.

High Potential For Student-Run Judicial Board

By Jeremy Gasowski

"It depends on how much resistance we meet," said Judicial Board member Eric Lang. If everything works out the way it is planned, ORHS will have its first student-run Judicial Board this spring.

The members of the Judicial Board Committee, a sub group of the ORHS Senate, have been working on plans for a judicial board at ORHS. Just recently the committee finished their first draft and presented it to the Senate. The Senate spent hour and a half discussing the draft. "There were a lot of differences of opinion on how people should be elected, who should be on it, and how it should function," said junior Eric Lang. "Eventually we will reach a compromise."

The new Judicial Board, if approved, will be a way for students to voice their opinion on their punishment. Supervisors will still make up the punishment but students will have a way to override the account. "I think that it's a good idea because it gives the students more power and a second interpretation," said senior Brain Carter.

The committee got their ideas from Concord High School. As of now Concord High has an effective Judicial Board.

The senate must present the draft to the faculty, then to the school board, and lastly to the superintendent before it is passed and added on to the school's constitution.

The committee is expecting the Judicial Board to be in session starting next spring and definitely next school year. "The existing seniors on the committee would like to see if their judicial board works before they graduate, so we will try our hardest to get it out in the spring," said Lang.

"I like the idea about giving students a voice and how it's very representative," said Assistant Principal, Nancy Winterbottom. "It will take a

lot of pressure off of me."

The Judicial Board proposal to date will consist of seven people, one representative from each class, one staff representative and two additional representatives from any of the four classes. All of these people will have power to vote on any appeals that do make it to the board.

The appeal must be written and given to the board by 3:00 on the day after a disciplinary action is given to the student by a faculty member. The appeal must have a clear meaning of to why he/she wants to get a chance to appeal the disciplinary action.

The whole decision of whether or not the Judicial Board will hear the case will be decided within twenty-four hours. "One of my dislikes about the judicial board is the twenty-

four hour ruling to be fair, to be appropriate, and just about it. You have to give it time," said Ms. Winterbottom.

"These plans are not definite yet. To pass the plans in front of the School Board, and our own teachers, we must take in all ideas and try to work them into the plan as much as possible," said sophomore committee member Jamie Renner.

Over the next few weeks the committee will be revising their plans to be passed in to the senate. Students may see the new board in the early spring. "It will hopefully give students a greater say in how our school operates," said faculty advisor to the committee Lou Morz.

Mouth of the River

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Opinions & Editorials

Editorial

The Editorial reflects the views and opinions of the MOR editing staff.

It was quite hard for us to determine what was an acceptable Editorial for the Holiday edition of the MOR; the burden was not put upon all of the editors, instead it was placed upon the shoulders of the youngest: the junior.

Agreement is a hard thing to come by in this world, but once it is accomplished, the better it feels. To work together to accomplish a goal is a feeling that cannot be beat; we know, as we have spent long hours working cohesively to finish what we hope you think is a good newspaper.

This past weekend we watched "It's a Wonderful Life," a movie everyone should see. You may think this sounds a little corny: it is and we don't deny it. However, the message it transcends is not corny, in fact to some of us the message was so profound that it caused some of us to cry.

That movie sent the message of the importance of being together and being happy. Now you may be asking what are we getting at, and this does in fact have a point; with the Christmas season now upon us, the spirit of giving and friendship is never more endorsed. This idea is also being put into action at ORHS.

This year, more than any other, has seen a voluminous amount of people involved in Community Service. Before this year, the group was seen as small and not so interesting; however, this year it has grown more and more popular. We feel like these people are the fortunate ones because they are receiving a first hand lesson in how to help people who are less fortunate than they are.

Especially during this time of year, we see no other feeling that could be more gratifying. Living out this dream of being able to enhance the lives of others not only causes chills to go down our spines, but it also causes us to have a tremendous amount of jealousy.

During this time of year volunteers are setting an example for us all to become involved with people who are less fortunate. Once begging for people to join, the Community Service program is now having no problem finding people to sign up. We see a tremendous amount of maturity in this aspect of our school. People are finding more in giving than they are in taking.

The staff of the MOR would like to wish you and yours a merry holiday season!!

Hey, Who's Out That Window?

Kelly Watson

Who is out that window anyway? Have you ever wondered why students continuously stare out the window while taking a test or during a major discussion? Well, I've got the answer students have been afraid teachers would find out. If you don't know what I'm talking about well I'll give you a brief overview of how a student takes a test.

Slowly as the bell rings, students take their place at their desks, ready for the God forsaken Trig. test—or worse, World Cultures. As they sit, they carelessly glance out the window, scoping the scenery as if admiring the trees for some poem they need to write for poetry. As the test lands on their desks, the students remove their eyes from the window and begin to write down the meaningless "mumbo jumbo".

Here is where the tick comes in. Teachers you may think while staring out the window students are col-

lecting their thoughts or searching their brains for an answer to appear out of the dark. The answer does appear, but not in the fashion you may believe it does. Did you ever wonder why the window washers came only on the days you have test and quizzes? Well you can wonder no longer. As they glide the squeegee over the window the magazine they appear to be reading really is the text book in condensed form.

You may think that you can blind the windows or call the window washer company and tell them not to come any more, but we students have other tricky little tricks you will never know. I just thought you might want to know why the constant staring out the window is a students favorite pass time, especially when taking a test.

Kelly Watson is the News Editor of the Mouth of the River

And I Can Go Where?

Aaron Major

"We, as members of our school community, create an atmosphere of learning as diverse as each student is unique. Our school values all students equally...blah, blah blah." In case you are one of the few people who haven't memorized this yet, this is just a tiny smidgen of that Vision Statement thing that hangs above the water fountain in the Senior Hallway.

Anyway, the key part of that above phrase was "atmosphere of learning." It seems to me that this school has slowly degenerated from the atmosphere of learning that I once knew as a young lad (freshman). When I first started school here, I entered a building with books in it and some people that teach you stuff when you go into their designated classroom.

Let's try to be honest with ourselves here. Reach deep, deep, deep down into the depths of your rational mind and think: Is doing your homework in the cafeteria really synonymous with the "atmosphere of learning?" I don't think so. "But!" you may say, "I can just do my homework in...the LIBRARY!" Wrong folks. Now, unless you manage to get into the library just as the bell rings to start the next period (between sixth lunch and eighth lunch) you may not enter; or so the policy says.

But hey, don't you fret, this little problem has been worked around; you just bring your work into the cafeteria and do it there! Hey, how about that. At first, that seems to be okay, but let's take a closer look. First, let's just say that on any one given day of school there are about 575 students

in the school—let's just say. Now, after a little excursion into the cafeteria (you can read about the details in my latest book *The Cafeteria: What They Don't Want You to Know*, for only \$19.95, or \$24.95 in Canada) I discovered that there are twelve of those folding tables that most of us sit at, and on each of those tables, twelve of those little round discs that you actually sit upon. So, having used my skills attained from four years of high school math, and with a little help from my TI-81, I concluded that there are approximately 144 seats to sit upon. Now, if we have 575 students a day, divided by three lunch periods, that's 191.666667 students per lunch (granted the 2/3 person doesn't take up as much space, but hey, it has feelings too).

What this all boils down to is that there are already 144 students with food, notebooks, pencils, calculators, and text books sprawled out in front of them, and another fifty or so students with no where's to sit, or eat, and a 2/3 person who must be missing some limbs who doesn't get to eat either.

The school is overcrowded, that's obvious. With overcrowding comes noise, packed hallways, squabbles, and other undesirables that need to be dealt with. However, I don't think that you can solve the overcrowding in the library by overcrowding the cafeteria. That does not solve any problems.

When you have a free lunch period, sixth or eighth, take all of the work that you need to do, or just work that you would like to do, and go do

it in the cafe. Now of course you can't cheat and take up more than your allotted seating sector and take up more space than the students around you. After all, there are fifty and 2/3 people just waiting to jump into an empty chair.

The school's resources are here for the students to use because we attend Oyster River High School. The students' schedules are designed so that a student may have a free period in which to do work, and they may do it in the library if they like. A student should also be able to go get something to eat, and then go do some school work in the library. These are basic freedoms of the student that cannot be denied. Instead of removing the entire student body from the library during lunches, remove the people in the library that are consistently obnoxious. Make them go and battle with the 2/3 person for a space to do work in the cafe.

Let's try and keep up the idea of having a high academic standard and an academic atmosphere, that's what school is supposed to be about. Besides, why don't YOU go and work in the cafeteria. Or better yet, in the courtyard, and see how much quality work you can get done when the ink is frozen in your pen, or someone spills sweet-and-sour sauce from Teriyaki Dipper Day all over your notes. I think then you'll see where I'm coming from.

Aaron Major is Editor-in-Chief of the Mouth of the River.

Bosnia...Our Fifteenth President?

Lesley Folensbee

Through this past year many things have plagued our television sets and our broadcast systems. From natural disasters in California, to bombs in the eastern countries. From O.J Simpson trials to news on the Clinton's. But the most recent news is something that could shatter any hope of peace in the Balkan States.

Since 1992 the US has not sent troops to any foreign countries for civil aid. Unfortunately, as I write this, men and women are being sent to Bosnia to aid in the prevention of the civil war between the Bosnians and the Serbs.

How many of you OR students really know or understand what is actually happening over there? From recent discussions with my peers, parents, and other community members we have ascertained that kids in this school are generally unaware or even do not care what is going on. I realize that these situations are happening in a distant place that none of us have really had much opinion on, but it is real and it does affect us.

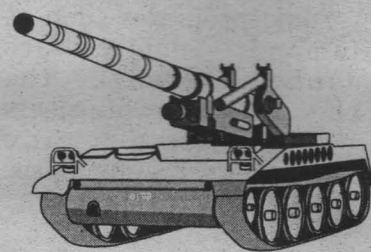
Many of you know and are related to someone who could be called away to serve our country in the

peace keeping fight over there. Also, a great number of people in this school are also 18 and could be called to represent our country. So, it does matter.

In a recent survey of random ORHS students, 5 out of 10 freshmen had no idea where Bosnia is located. Whereas the older students had a pretty good idea of it's location, although they could not place it exactly. Seven out of 10 freshmen had no idea what was going on in Bosnia and the ones that did were not quite sure why the civil war had started.

Almost 80% of the students asked were not sure what this country should do to help Bosnia and whether they would serve their country or not. Senior Ben Bilodeau stated "Clinton needs something to get re-elected, we do not belong there." Another student who felt strongly against this aid commented, "I don't think the US should be policemen to every third world country."

Other students thoughtfully contemplated whether or not they would serve their country if they were called upon. Senior Erin Bostrom said, "Yeah..I'd serve my country, I guess," while Senior Jason Berndtson replied "After all this country has done for me, I can at least serve for it."



As we all sit here in Durham, NH, worrying about tests and projects, who will ask you to Sadies, and those other little things we wonder about, Bosnia is in turmoil. In less than a year most of you seniors will be voting for the future of our country. You will have a say in what happens in our country. Why not start now and make yourself knowledgeable about what is happening outside of our sheltered community?

**Survey done by Bill Glazier*

Curly Hair or Straight Hair??

Chris Wesley

Over the years, humankind has pondered over such questions as: was there a "big-bang?" How did the dinosaurs become extinct? Is there actually a Loch-Ness monster?

Although scientists have provided us with some information regarding these questions, there will always be doubts as to the "right answer." While these questions have plagued the lives of millions, there is one question above all else which needs to be answered. A question which I ask myself every time I walk into school, go to a restaurant, or fall asleep at night. A question which tugs at my brain so violently, I am forced to fall to the ground, take the fetal position, and shake uncontrollably until I pass out. A question which has caused the bravest of men to collapse in a heap of trembling anguish, and certified geniuses to hemorrhage...

Why is it that girls with straight hair want it to be curly, and girls with curly hair want it to be straight?

I think that before we can try to offer an explanation, we must first look at how this issue has played a role in world history. Hopefully, we will be able to learn something about the woman's mind, and perhaps offer some suggestions for those suffering from this common ailment.

The first written records describing the gravity of this question were discovered in Egypt during the latter part of the eighteenth century. It has been discovered that the child-Pharaoh Tutankhamen became ill and died when one of his wives (who was of the straight-haired variety) discovered a way to curl her hair.

The hieroglyphs left by Egyptian wise men tell of this tragedy on a collection of clay posts, first mistaken

to be the story of the making of a pyramid. When the Rosetta Stone was discovered in the late seventeenth hundreds it left no room for interpretation as to the tale told on those pots.

The next great connection in world history was the murder of Julius Caesar. Many historians believe that after Caesar was stabbed, he looked into Brutus's eyes and said, "Es-tu Brute?" ("and you too, Brutus?"). In layman's terms, this line is interpreted as meaning, "So you were one of the people who stabbed me too?"

However, it is not noted in most history books that Brutus was naturally curly-haired, and that on that particular day, he had decided to straighten his hair (as was the fashion for executioners in Roman times). So, when Caesar looked into Brutus's eyes, he was not exclaiming about the murder itself. On the contrary, he was exclaiming, "I can't believe you too are willing to jeopardize your individuality to the point where you will straighten out your hair just to fit in with the rest of the executioner jerks. By the way...you smell very nice today."

But, seeing that history is interpreted in different ways by different people, I decided to get some actual case studies to bolster my position. I arranged for a meeting with Doctor Robert Harrex, professor of German and Psychology at UNH. I was hoping to gain some knowledge about how the mind worked, so I figured a psychology professor was the way to go. However, I didn't realize until I met the man that he spoke absolutely no English.

Therefore, when I asked him the question, he responded boisterously, "Vas fur eingen? Vreingen bik deingen Nuremburg wienerschnitzel!" Needless to say, it was a waste of both of our times.

Not to be one-sided, I

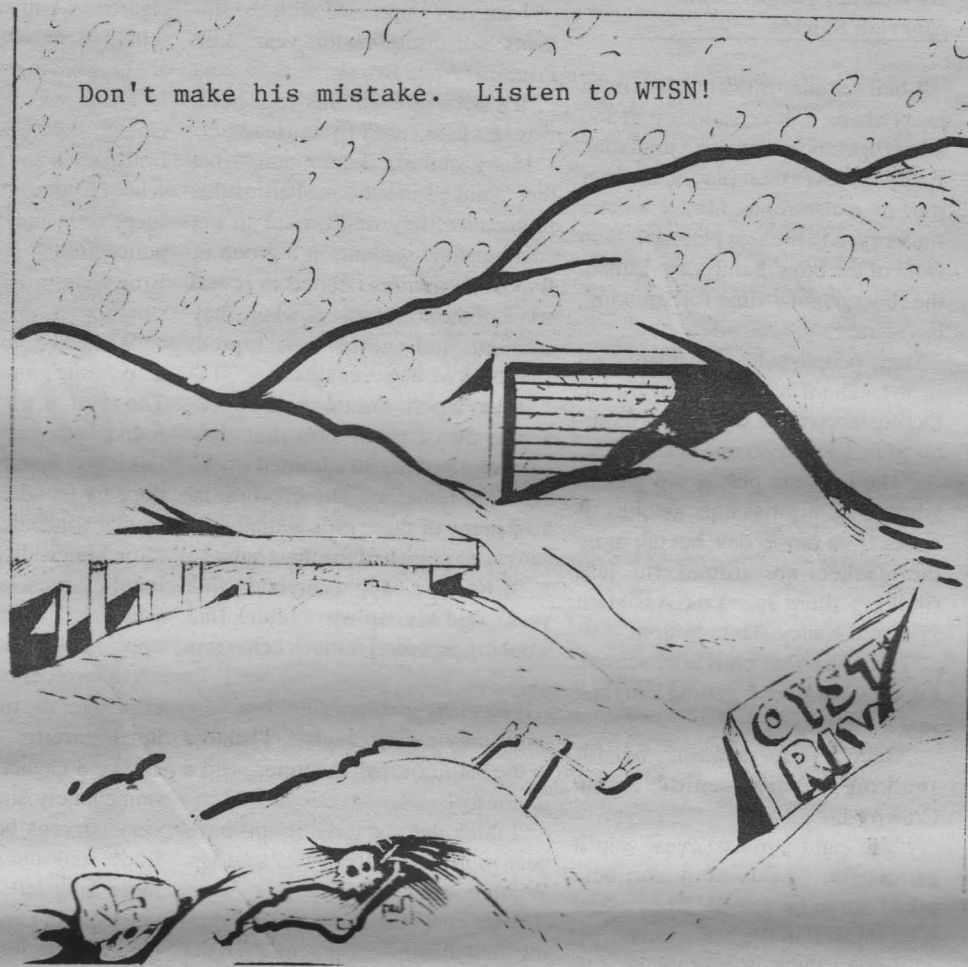
thought it would be nice to get some input from the opposite sex. But who should I ask? Everyone knows that there has never been a more impressive gathering of women's rights activists than at the Seneca Falls convention in New York. So, I actually made myself a time machine, and went back to the year...I've...I've said too much.

Changing hairstyles is epitomized by our first-lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton. Now, don't get me wrong, I think she's probably a very nice woman, but I mean come on! Pick a hairstyle and stick with it! It's curly, it's straight, it's curly, it's straight...when one stops to think about how much tax money is spent just on her hair, it's almost sickening. So, I voiced my opinion by sending a letter to the President himself. He responded simply by saying, "I feel your pain."

As you can see, this is definitely a problem that does not discriminate against race, color, ethnic beliefs, or even time. Also, this is not a problem that is going to be stamped out overnight.

If we as Americans—as world leaders—are going to stand by and let millions of innocent women fall prey to this dehumanizing, animalistic act, then we do not deserve to be recognized as such.

Chris Wesley is a senior at Oyster River High School



Food for Thought; NOT to be thrown

Mike Beland

I thought this was a high school attended by mature 15, 16, 17, and 18 year olds, but then again I've been wrong before; some of us have recently begun acting like underage elementary students who don't know what is appropriate and what is not. We plead with our lenient administration for more voice in our education yet we cannot go a single lunch period without having someone throw something on a 150-foot ballistic arc across the cafeteria.

Mature adults? No. Immature elementary students? Yes. When I go to lunch, especially on Thursdays, I am anticipating a warm, fresh pizza on a plate, not on the wall next to a bunch of innocent freshman guys. Some of you upper class students may not remember your freshman year when you were considered lower than a snake's knees, but I do. I would hope that you detested your treatment enough to resist oppressing the contemporary freshman class.

When I see this racket going on during lunch, I think about what it looks like from up above; how do you think this looks from the sky-cam? The picture would probably bear greater resemblance to a bunch of kids running football patterns through the living room, kids who have no concept of the importance of polite actions in public, rather than a group of young adults gathering for lunch. I ask you: what would your parents think? Do you think they would be eager to jump up and say "that's my son," or, "that's my daughter" or do you think they would rather hide in a corner? Probably the latter.

Should people have to sit on a particular side of the lunch table so they have a clear view of the imminent

launch? This discomfort is what is on the mind of many people during the lunch period. While you may be having a good time, your actions are being inflicted on the lives of others. Not a good thing. What if that freshman who is reading his book and is attacked by your carrots and other salad bar items eventually is the man you are trying to convince to hire you; do you think he would be in favor of your employment? I don't.

Now that it is winter and the courtyard is not accessible, we are all compressed into the cafeteria feeling antsy. There is also a lack of supervision; with the new rule closing the halls and the library, we apparently will need more adult presence in the cafe. The majority that wants a civilized environment for eating doesn't want to contend with the minority that is out to annoy everyone else.

If you have not read the letter to all of us from Ms. Brown in this edition of the MOR, you should do so now. By her writing us this letter, she is treating us like adults and is expecting us to handle her condition like adults. She told me that "it is important for you [the students] to know". I take this, and so should you, as a compliment. She is seeing us like equals, not as people she has to hide something from.

Are we showing her the same respect when we throw food across the lunch room at someone who is wearing something different? We must all realize that our actions do not only hurt one person, but the end result affects many. Like Ms. Brown, I want to see this school as a group of mature, young adults; make her believe a reality and act this way.

Mike Beland is the Op/Ed Editor of the Mouth of the River.

Editors's Note

The opinions and views presented on this page do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the editing and reporting staff or the advisors of the *Mouth of the River* newspaper.

If you would like to express your views or opinions in the *Mouth of the River* it will gladly be published. The *Mouth of the River* does reserve the right to edit anything we feel contains explicit language, strong sexual content or comments targeted at specific people. All submissions can be delivered to Mr. Tappan in room 113 or be placed in his mailbox. Submissions can also be given to individual editors. Anonymous submissions will not be published. Thank You.

Cloud Falls On Girls' Bathrooms

By Heather Jacques and Marriah Shields

A bell sounds. Students rush from everywhere. Conversations start and all of them soon turn into a loud roar. Everyone takes their places, whether it be in a classroom, library, cafeteria, or even in the seat placed right in front of the boys' bathroom. Lunch, the most popular time for smoking, has started.

Many people believe that smoking in the school has been cut down. During lunch there is usually a monitor to make sure no one is smoking.

"The teachers play a big part in whether or not the kids smoke. It varies from day to day, but the more the teachers are around, the less smoking there is," said Assistant Principal Nancy Winterbottom.

"I can just wait until after school. I don't want to risk getting caught," said a sophomore boy.

"School is for learning, not for smoking," said senior Adam Crawford.

"You can't [smoke] cause you'll get caught," said one junior, who asked not to be named, when asked if he smoked in the bathrooms.

"I don't think it's a problem anymore," said Derek Fox, implying that students smoked more often last year

than this year.

"I am very impressed with the students' self-discipline this year," said Principal Anne Brown.

"It's not a problem this year, but it was last year," said Chris Heath.

Many students did not admit that they smoked in school. Part of this is because they don't want to get caught. One student, in a group of five or six juniors, started to reveal some of the secret places where they smoked, and another interrupted, "don't or we'll get caught!"

When a poll was taken of 80 students, 30 of them said that they smoke. 18 of the 30 admitted smokers were females. The question is, how many of these girls actually get caught or punished for their habit?

"I haven't caught anybody this year," said Ms. Brown. "I think [the smoking problem] is much better this year."

If so many girls are smoking, why aren't they getting caught? "I [smoke in the bathroom] all the time," said a junior girl.

"I think that the girls' rooms have been more smoky this year," said Ms. Winterbottom.

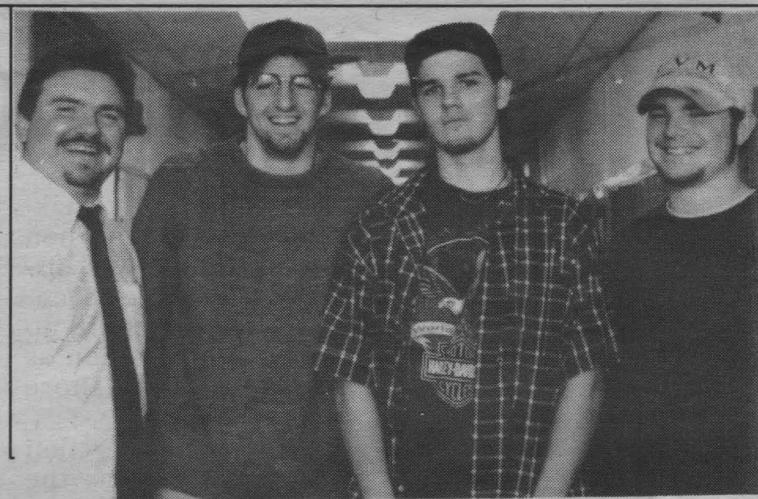
"I got caught in the courtyard during first lunch," said senior Trisha Welsh. "I don't think that it's fair to other people to smoke in school, but

if you need a cigarette you need a cigarette. You can't concentrate on school work if all you're thinking about is having one."

Trisha was with two other girls. One of them was smoking with her. Both Trisha and her friend got an in-school suspension. An out-of-school suspension and being reported to the police are the punishments that Ms. Brown described for being caught smoking.

"We need a smoking section," was an echoing comment by many girls. The need of a smoking section was found on the survey ballots. The ballots it was found on, though, were all done by females. Ballots handed in by males included comments such as: "Smoking is disgusting," or "I don't inhale fumes," and "If you smoke you reek." These comments are the opposite of what the girls had to say.

A few voices echo in the hall. Hovering over the toilet, she sucks down her cigarette. Barely giving the smoke a chance to be inhaled, it is immediately shot back out. She is very nervous because she couldn't find a look-out today. She has one more drag left. She inhales. The voice of Mr. Lane is heard. She drops the cigarette into the toilet, and exhales. The voice disappears. Ahh, another butt without getting caught.



Goatees--A New Trend

By Roger Martin

While you're walking down the halls of O.R.H.S. you might notice a growing trend--goatees.

What's at the root of this new trend? Goatee--sporting senior Ben Bilodeau said, "It sucks shaving your chin." He also said, "It looks pretty cool."

When asked about his goatee, senior Rich Turcotte said, "I like it, and it's annoying to shave."

Not all students like this trend. Clean-shaven Brian Tagliaferro said, "I believe that they are filthy and a disgrace to our school community."

Senior Khriese Cook said, "I think some goatees make guys look bummy and unbathed, but others look decent."

The goatee trend isn't just a fad with students either. Mr. Reeves came back to school this year with a

hairy addition to his chin and upper lip. When asked why he grew it he said, "Why not? I wanted to change my appearance. It's definitely more interesting than a plain face."

Intern John Altbergs said the reason he wears a goatee is, "It makes me look a little bit older. Without my goatee I look 12." When asked why a goatee instead of other facial hair he said, "I like facial hair and I can't grow a full beard."

Mr. Altbergs also cited some disadvantages of goatees. "Around this time of year the mustache part of my goatee tends to ice-over. Also, some people associate goatees or beards with hippies or other undesirables."

Goatees are nothing new. They have been worn by people throughout history. Will this goatee revival last? Only time will tell.

Diversity Discovered in Homeroom Advisories

By Khriese Cook and Rebecca Soderholm

Down the bustling hallways of Oyster River High School, students stroll into a downstairs classroom preparing for another Tuesday advisory. Heads hung low, and limbs dragging, they seem hesitant to enter. As they pile into the room cluttered with physics equipment, one young lady with a grin shouts "Party time!" Instantly the small group awakens. They are thrown into a whirlpool of excitement. Tape flies, string falls, and chocolate doughnuts roll.

When the commotion cleared, ten doughnuts dangled from the ceiling by string, Halloween music crept through the air and candy was thrown invitingly on the table. Through the witching laughs and screeching cat growls of the special Halloween tape, students chatter excitedly.

It seems as though there has been wide spread interest in programs like ORHS's advisories. Each advisory has its own unique program. What each student and advisor will get out of this new program is up to how much they put into it.

There is a similar program in the Oyster River Middle School called Homebase. It is at the beginning of the day for 20 minutes, except for on Fridays when it lasts for a half hour. The Homebases consist of 10-15 students from the same grade. They enjoy playing games, listening to music, and reading aloud.

When asked to give their opinions on the success of advisories, Mrs. Schaeffer, a foreign language teacher, said, "It needs to be a joint effort be-

tween kids and teachers so that the direction meets the kids' needs."

Math teacher Brendan Whalen said, "It's hard sometimes because we have so many other things going on this year, but I definitely think that it's worth it." Activities such as: sports, spelling bees, Twister, Spanish games, hangman, painting, Scrabble, parties, tug-of-war, charity organizations, and eating are done in many of the individual advisories. A member of Mr. Lords' advisory, senior Chris Wesley said, "I believe that advisories are a nurturing environment in which members of each class contribute greatly."

At the same time students were preparing for their party, other students sat lazily in an upstairs room. The room is segregated with its rows of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, spaced out from each other. Two sophomores sit off to the side talking as a junior sits slumped in his seat, staring at his watch. The three seniors are the loudest in the room, much louder than the row of freshmen doing their homework. The teacher takes attendance and announces that there aren't any announcements today, but that there are two surveys to fill out about school issues. One is about parking and the other is about sports. The students grudgingly fill them out and then move onto the doughnuts and juice brought in by two students.

Kyle Francis, senior, said: "I don't know if upperclassmen and underclassmen are relating to each other well." Sophomore Ryen Samuel said that the advisories are "a time to talk to other people you usually aren't able to."

Back to the Halloween party down

the hall. The doughnut-eating contest is well under way. Students seem to feel comfortable with each other. They are chomping on messy glazed doughnuts strung above them. There are a few scattered classmates who have chosen not to participate, instead they are happily cheering on the contestants. The advisor has also joined in on this festive occasion. He tries desperately to grasp the doughnut with his teeth, and after many unsuccessful tries, he takes suggestions from the students. The room is filled with laughter and from an outsider's eye there doesn't appear to be any distinct separation of classes. This advisory seems to be a great success; the students are interacting with the teacher and the other students—and they are having fun doing so.

It's now halfway through the upstairs advisory and the students are as inactive as they were in the beginning. The soft chattering and the occasional turn of a book's pages are the only sounds. The clock ticks by slowly and eventually reaches 10:33. The bell rings, announcing the end of another advisory. Now is the time for the students to take action. Their energetic conversations are barely heard above the mad rush for the door. They hand in their surveys and rush down the hall, leaving the teacher to clean up the mess left behind before his next class. Megan Smith, a junior in the previously described advisory, said, "It's a little slow, but pretty fun."

The advisories have been criticized and picked apart by students and teachers alike but as one student, senior Noa Daskal, said "Two different types of advisories equal two different types of experiences."

Entertainment Review New Movie and CD releases

By Zeb Cruikshank

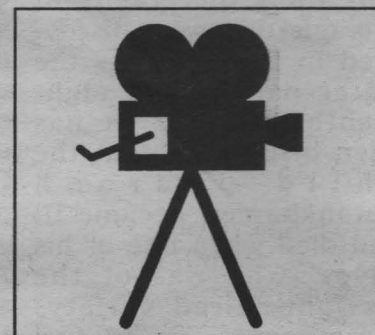
"Ace Ventura 2—When Nature Calls"

This sequel to the multi-million dollar hit that made Jim Carrey famous, in my opinion, does not live up to the standard set by the original. Like "Home Alone 2", a lot of jokes are re-used in different settings. However, Carrey's wacky sense of humor and clever parodies make this movie entertaining in its stupidity.

In this movie, an African tribe hires Ace to rescue their recently stolen sacred animal: a bat. The solution to the mystery is far more predictable than the first Ace movie.

Students at ORHS described the movie as being "very funny", "the funniest thing I've ever seen in my life", and "not as good as the first one."

Jim Carrey's reckless comic style is the staple of this movie and I would recommend it to anybody who is looking for a laugh. However, you may want to wait until it comes out on video.



Joe Satriani

Unlike most of Joe Satriani's CDs, his recent self-titled release is recorded live in the studio, instead of track-by-track. His guitar sound is more natural without all of the over-processing.

On this album, Satriani also breaks away from his usual rock style demonstrated on past albums like "Surfin' With an Alien" and "The Extremist", and plays blues (S.M.F., Look My Way) and Jazz (Cool #9). Recording the album live gives it a bluesy, "rough-around-the-edges" sound. As always, there are several rock songs (If, Luminous Flesh Giants) and slow ballads (Home) so you forget that you are listening to Joe Satriani.

If you're a Satriani fan that wants to hear something a little different, I would recommend this CD.

Cancer

Opening the Doors For Discussion

By Anne Brown

Mr. Tappan asked me if I would be able to write an article for MOR on cancer; I'd been thinking the same thing myself. Being objective and subjective at the same time could make a difficult task, but I'll give it my best effort.

As a school and a community, we've seen entirely too much cancer in the last few years. Of course it's a tragedy whenever it happens, but the tragedy is greatly intensified when cancer takes a young person's life. Many of you have already suffered this year from the death of Brian Swift, a wonderful young man whose passing affected us deeply.

In 1993, another fine young man, Josh Hardy, died of cancer just months before his graduation, and the school mourned. Several school parents have fought cancer within the last few years, some successfully, but more commonly, not. Two faculty wives are valiantly trying to beat this monster right now, as is a friend of mine who is a school parent; I'm currently waging my own war on pancreatic cancer.

I'm wondering if there truly is an increased incidence of the disease in our area or if we all are just more aware of it now that people are more open in their talk about cancer. This may seem odd to you, but it was very unusual even to talk about cancer or mention the body part to which it was associated twenty or thirty years ago. My mother died of breast cancer in 1974 and my brothers and I were instructed not to talk about it other than in vague terms such as, "yes, she's ill, but we expect she'll soon be doing fine." Well, she didn't do just fine, and we haven't come much closer to finding a cure in all these years!

Last April, I started turning interesting shades of yellow and Mrs. Weeks made me go to the doctor. Quickly I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and whisked off to the Main Medical Center in Portland for surgery. Surprise and disbelief contended for "emotion of the moment," until after the doctors discovered the tumor was inoperable (being so intricately involved with other vital organs in the abdomen). With a twelve-inch upside down smiley face scar, a new bile duct, the tumor still intact, without a gallbladder, and about two feet of an intestine, I came home to recuperate and prepare for TREATMENTS, which in this case involved six weeks of constant flow chemotherapy and daily radiation.

I bore up fairly well under this tiring and uncomfortable regimen, except that it had no appreciable effect on the tumor, which by then was giving indications of having expanded to the liver. Since I ended those treatments in August, I've just been playing a waiting and *balancing* game—trying to balance pain with correct doses of medication, to balance what I am able to do at school with what I need to do at home, to balancing what I can do to be as normal as possible with the changes I have had to make in my life-style. The waiting game is self-explanatory.

Throughout all of our experiences with cancer, there are too few answers to common questions. We still don't know why certain people get it and certain others don't. With most cancers, we don't know why a par-



ticular kind might attack one person and not another. We *do* know that some kinds of cancer seem to have hereditary inclinations; breast cancer, for example, is frequently passed from one generation of women to another. We also know that certain behaviors place individuals *at risk* for certain kinds of cancer. There is proof, for example, that chewing tobacco leads to lip and mouth cancers, that smoking tobacco leads to lung cancer, that excessive drinking can lead to liver cancer.

Basically, cancer cells are rapidly dividing cells that attach themselves to previously healthy cells and those areas become unwilling hosts. Un-

treated, or as in my case unsuccessfully treated, the cells rapidly divided and grow, forming tumors which can block an organ's regular ability to perform its normal routine. In my case, I've learned that the pancreas produces enzymes essential to digestion, so it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that eating and digestion would become my primary areas of difficulty. These tumors can grow until they spread to another organ or small parts of them can break off, travel around some, and settle down on another organ.

To those who have cancer or who are involved with cancer patients, the *not knowing* is the worst part. Doctors are uncomfortable making life predictions like "three months to a year." They don't really know much more than we do! Individuals begin to wonder whether they're cancer tired or just tired tired, or in cancer pain or just regular pain pain. When I asked why I was so tired during radiation treatments, the technicians responded: "Oh, that's just your body healing itself." You might imagine that I'm not the kind of person to take kindly to such tired and empty cliches. . .

Short term goals to keep living meaningfully seem to make the most sense to me: go to school every day; try to talk with as many students as possible each day; do something to help someone each day; make it through to the weekend (a goal which I'll bet I share with most of you); enjoy the holidays and come back rested for second semester. I'd like to presume to give those short-term goals to each of you, and to suggest some long-term goals as well. When you use the body you were given properly, chances are strong that it will reward you with long years of good service. Although it might re-

quire self-discipline right now--avoiding tobacco products, alcohol, and fatty and chemically laden foods--it will benefit you greatly in later years.

Forming patterns of eating whole grains and natural fibers found in six or seven servings of fruits and vegetables a day will set you off on a healthier, independent life-style. Avoiding stressful situations and unhappiness (to the extent we can) will help develop positive psyches and healthy self-concepts. An incentive to follow this kind of life patterning would be the knowledge that you can become a healthy and "take charge" kind of person.

On a much grander scale, perhaps several of the students reading this now will set personal goals of excelling in science and math, attending medical school or advanced sciences graduate schools, and discovering the cause of and the cure for cancer. To the person who could answer all our questions would go great rewards from the rich and famous to the small, heartfelt thank-yous from all the regular people whose lives are so frequently touched by this disease.

Not so long ago, I'd still fantasize about what I was going to do when I grew up; well, this has certainly made me grow up fast! I've never spent such a long time not knowing what I'm doing or how long I'm going to be able to keep on doing it in a fog compared to the bright sunlight before. As long as I can make it to school, I'll know that things are okay. I guess I should confess that I draw vitality from you, that I leave school in the afternoon feeling better physically and emotionally than I do when I arrive in the mornings. If there is any way I can help you, the way you are helping me, please stop in to visit me in the messy office on the corner.

Advisory Pushing For Commendations

By Thania Johns

Each year around this time, students at Oyster River High School prepare for the possibility of receiving a warning. "All of my attention is on whether I'm going to get a warning or not," said Stephanie Zaidlicz.

Faculty members prepare and send warnings out to parents with hopes of students improving their grades. But what about those students who do not receive warnings?

The Art Room homeroom has recently proposed the idea of recognizing students who have done exceptionally well by sending letters of commendation home to parents. Students who receive no warnings would be recognized in areas where they achieved excellent grades.

"A student should receive a commendation if they have done exceptional on a test or any other important piece of work. They could also be given out for getting all homework done on time," said freshman Robert Heuchling.

This past quarter, over 300 notices

were sent out. Twenty-eight of them were commendations, the remainder were warnings. "I think more teachers are sending commendations out this year. I think they should be handed out to kids, not mailed," said guidance secretary, Mrs. Hardy.

"It would also be good for students who receive warnings in some classes, but excel in others," said Chris Simeone.

Unlike warnings though, commendations could be sent out during any point of the term. "A commendation could be sent out if the student has dramatically improved, especially after receiving a warning," said Britta Hult.

It is the homerooms's request to help give positive recognition to deserving students, "I think that if a student is doing well or has improved, the teacher should make phone contact to the parents and they are being encouraged to do that. I also think that students should get a progress report for every single class, every single quarter," said Assistant Principal Bryan Lane.

Our Common Concern

During this holiday season the usual feelings of joy and happiness are mingled for many of us with common concerns about what Mrs. Brown is going through. Many of us are feeling sadness for various reasons, some of them hard to identify. We already have been touched by the recent losses in our lives.

It is natural and healthy to feel and express your emotions. we all experience a range of emotions and express them in different ways: from person to person and from day to day. But many of us from time to time need some support.

As you enjoy your school vacation with family members and friends, take good care of your emotional self during the holidays. If you feel the need, talk to a family member, a pastor, a counselor, or a friend. Be a good listener if you are called upon. For those who need to talk to somebody today, your homeroom advisor can mention some resources in the building.

Treasure Chest



868-6023
47 Main Street
Durham, NH 03824
(NEXT TO MIKE LIBBY'S)

Guitars: bought, sold, traded and repaired.
Also: guitar lessons, sheet music, gifts and jewelry.

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On-The-Spot

By Seth Alie

Should Oyster River have a ski team?

"Why not. Only if they allow snow boarding."

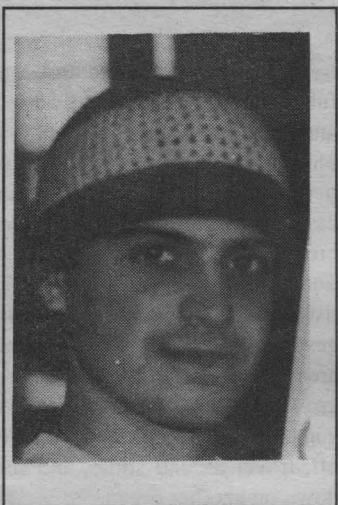
What do you think about the administrators?

"They're very fashionable. Mr. Lane is a hip guy."

How would you handle parking?

"Everyone should own a moped or a scooter."

--Kalim Armstrong, senior.



Should Oyster River have a ski team?

"Sure."

What do you think about the administrators?

"I don't have much respect for Mr. Lane because of the Chris Tivedo incident."

How would you handle parking?

"Take half of the playing fields and turn them into parking."

--Jess Benoit, junior.

Should Oyster River have a ski team?

"If there's a large enough interest."

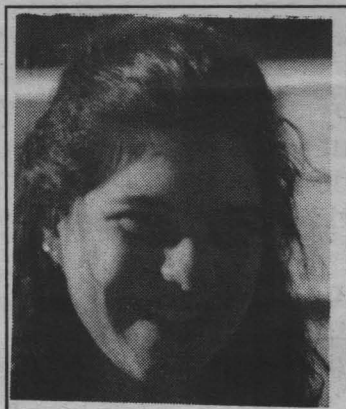
What do you think about the administrators?

"I feel we've needed Mr. Lane for a long time."

How would you handle parking?

"Renovate the gym into parking space."

--Brian Tagliaferro, senior.



Should Oyster River have a ski team?

"Yeah, of course."

What do you think about the administrators?

"A little anal retentive, going crazy with the rules."

How would you handle parking?

"Difficult problem that should be addressed now."

--Jeannemarie Celentano, sophomore.

Should Oyster River have a ski team?

"Yes, but funded by the school."

What do you think about the administrators?

"I think they pick favorites and stereotype others."

How would you handle parking?

"I think they should introduce double-parking stickers."

--Kate Sanders, junior.



Should Oyster River have a ski team?

"No. Skiing is for sissies."

What do you think about the administrators?

"Whatever."

How would you handle parking?

"Only allow juniors and seniors to park."

--Andy Neubauer, senior.



The members of the band "Skarotum" recently played at the Stone Church in Newmarket, on November 23, and at the Elvis Room in Portsmouth on the 26th. The two concerts marked their new CD release, entitled "We're Sitting On A Woodpecker." The band is scheduled to play at the Elvis Room again on December 3rd.

The News in Brief

by Casey Colson

Russian Exchange To Become Annual Event

With the recent success of the Russian exchange program at Oyster River, and a formal invitation to visit Russia, Mr. Herlihy recently announced the exchange will now be a yearly event.

For the past seven years Oyster River has sent students to St. Petersburg every other year. Now each spring ORHS students will be offered the opportunity to travel to Russia for two and a half weeks.

Mrs. Conway and Mr. Herlihy are coordinators of the exchange. They are now looking for students interested in a spring trip to St. Petersburg. If you are interested, feel free to contact Mrs. Conway or Mr. Herlihy. The fee for the exchange is \$800 which is due in March.

Math Team

The Oyster River math team took first place in the Tri-State Math League on Wednesday, Dec. 6. According to coach Peter Stoykovich, the team earned the highest team score in his memory of previous

league competitions. Among the high scorers were: Dan Birch, Alex Wong, Heather Faltin, Bob Simmons, Kevin Russell, and Emma Torbert.

Lit. and Land Class Hosts Environmental Forum Session

Ms. Emma Rous' Literature and the Land class hosted a community forum on environmental policy recently. A national organization sponsors community forums all over the U.S. to gather ideas and test public sentiment regarding environmental issues.

"These forums are to be consensus-building rather than confrontational. The purpose of the National Issues Forum is to educate, not to make policy."

Guests were invited from the University and the community, not as speakers, but as participants in the discussion. The guests were Dr. Barry Rock, head of Forest Watch of N.H.; Drew Christie, professor of philosophy and teacher of a course on environmental ethics; Dana Johnson, a local builder; also attending were chemistry teacher Mrs. Hopkins and English teacher Mrs. Dodge.

The forum has had two sessions,

one on December 8, and one on December 18. The topic was the discussion of the pro's and con's of four energy alternatives: fossil fuels, renewable resources (solar, hydro, wind), nuclear, and conservation.

Mr. Tappan Appointed to the N.H. Jury Reform Committee

English teacher Richard Tappan has been appointed by Superior Court Chief Justice Joseph Nadeau to the Jury Reform Committee. The committee, composed of twelve members, is to be chaired by Judge Douglas Gray who became well known as a result of the Pamela Smart trial. The committee will study many issues about how juries are selected, what instructions they are given, how much they should be allowed to communicate during the trial, and how they deliberate, among other issues.

The committee will begin its work on January 17. "I was surprised and honored to be selected," said Mr. Tappan. "I believe I'm the only person on the committee who is not a judge or legal professional, but I look forward to the opportunity to help bring about some changes to make the jury system to work better."

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December Horoscope

By Aubree Nygren

Capricorn (December 23-January 19)

If you keep your goals to yourself and don't brag, the probability of success is 100%. Don't let others get the chance to put you down with criticism. Go for the three-pointer, the long shot. Hit the mogul field like a hot dogger.

Surprise everybody by coming out of nowhere to nose out the competition.

Aquarius (January 20-February 19)

Any long term projects (think college essays?) could be fortuitous if you put your mind to it. Don't worry that your energy and talents will be wasted. Trust in your intuition and go with the flow.

Don't mull over things too long. Impulses should motivate an Aquarian. Get in touch with your feelings.

Pisces (February 20-March 20)

If it seems all efforts going towards personal gain seem wasted, cheer up. Keep a look out for unusual sources that may yield great wealth. If Powerball doesn't work, you might consider a good time to look for a better-paying parttime job.

Don't let money get the best of you. The more you have, the faster you'll spend it--and more often than not on things that bring you no satisfaction.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Don't be afraid to try something new, to use new and unique methods of doing things. After all, Aries is the outgoing, assertive type. Live out your destiny. Things will work out for the best, if not immediately. Stay positive.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There's no need to feel down in the dumps because of all the snow. Think of the beauty of it; be bullish on win-

ter and go out sledding. So you get blue as Paul Bunyan's ox Babe. Blue is your best color, isn't it? Get out in the fresh air and see how much it will lift your spirits.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Like phases of the moon, you're changeable. Be careful when you're down not to say things you will regret, especially to someone you really care about. Hold those words til your mood changes.

Watch out for potholes that you can steer around. Your best days will be Dec. 24 and January 6.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You're getting impatient for change. The end of the year could bring some encouraging developments. Use your impatience creatively. Don't settle for mediocrity in your schoolwork now.

Give it all you've got for the end of the quarter. You have the power to make change work in your best interests. The criticism you've gotten is just a wake up call for your own good.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

It's time for you to take charge. You've been a doormat a few too many times lately. Speak up for yourself. Let 'em hear you roar. You'll feel better and you'll be more respected. You can be assertive, so now is the time while the moon is waning. Take assertive steps before the new moon.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You always want everything to be right, and you try very hard to get it that way, so when things don't go your way, calm down. Don't take setbacks so hard.

From schoolwork to Christmas shopping, you're putting lots of thought into each task. Nobody should expect more of you. Listen for words of praise and appreciation. They will make your day.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Keep working on getting a proper balance between your social life and your work. Even though that Christmas party is fun, remember that paper that is due and give it your best. When you're not feeling guilty, you'll have a lot better time.

Scorpio (October 23-November 22)

Emotions are powerful this month, so be careful that they don't take over. A person just a little younger than you is likely to become important in your life, but you have to be careful not to scare that person away with strong feelings.

Your best days to make decisions of the heart are December 27 and January 2. Scorpions from Madbury are specially blessed on these days.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 22)

Opposites attract. Find a Cancer and find your life fulfilled. Your gungho attitude will balance with Cancer's laid back ways. You can bring out the best in each other. Consider starting out a new relationship during the waxing of the full moon when Orion is in the fifth house and the Big Dipper is turned upside down over Dea-feeald.

Skankin'

By Josh Fisher

The Elvis Room in Portsmouth was packed. The concert was sold-out. Cheering fans awaited the performance of a local band called Skarotum who has just released a C.D.

"It's pretty fun playing for a crowd that gets into it," said Chris Merenda of Skarotum. "It's really smoky," said Kurt Weisman, also a member of the band. The sale of their C.D., entitled "We're On a Woodpecker," is going well. They've broke even and now they hope to make some profits.

What the band considers to be their biggest gig in their short music career was with The Toasters, a popular band from New York.

"They were pretty bad at first but now they're really good" said senior Mike Pazdon. The members of the group consist of Chris Merenda who plays the drums, Mike Merenda plays guitar, Kurt Weisman plays the trombone, Tom Lanoie plays the alto sax, Lloyd Alquist plays tenor sax, Pierce Woodward plays the keyboard, Jeff Lang plays base, and Ben Hardy on vocals.

At their first gig at ORHS drum player Chris Merenda was feeling the pressure of performing live, "I puked up pineapple pizza just before going on stage."

The band started in the basement of Mike and Chris Merenda. They started by just fooling around. Then some of the members were playing rock songs. Then the band decided to play ska music. They were influenced by original ska bands and jazz musicians.

"It's rad having a C.D. out," said Kurt Weisman. The band really never expected to make a C.D. Members of the band said it was much more time consuming than making a tape. The C.D. was recorded on tracks which made the sound quality better than the tape.



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Profile:

Jessica Tucker-Mohl

By Lesley Folensbee

In our brief history here at ORHS we have met many friends and many people who we won't care to run into again. We walk down the crowded halls every day say a short hello and continue on our merry ways. It is only with those very few close friends that we spend our most precious time. But does anyone realize that we are associated with a nationally recognized athlete?

Jessica Tucker-Mohl has been part of our OR school system for as long as anyone can remember. She has been a permanent figure in our school because she is involved with so many activities. She has been a community service co-ordinator, a member of the French honor society, a senate member (last year), French Club participant, a national merit scholar, and a member of the ORHS honor society. Seems like the average all-American kid, huh?

Tucker-Mohl is much more than the average kid at Oyster River. She is a prospect for the 1996 Olympic Swimming team. Since age 7, Jess has hit the pool instead of the play ground. Her extreme discipline has led her to several state meets as well as national meets. The most important meet that Jess can compete in is coming up this March in Indianapolis. At this meet, Tucker-Mohl will show her best in the 400 and 800m free-style events. If Jess makes the cut, as the first or second finisher, she will be the first Olympic swimmer from Oyster River to our knowledge. "It is great to realize that you are a potential role model and so many people can look up to you," Tucker-Mohl said in a recent interview.

As if competing in the Olympics would

not be enough to satisfy this incredible athlete, she has just received a scholarship to Stanford. At Stanford, she will be swimming division I as well as sparing with some of the most intellectual people in the country.

"I've definitely learned the concept of priorities because of my demanding swimming schedule, other activities, and my school work. That is something that will aid me in college," commented Tucker-Mohl.

Tucker-Mohl accredits her success to her family. She often swims with her freshman sister Katie on the Seacoast Swimming Association (SSA). Her parents stay involved with Jess's swimming as well. Her dad is the president of the SSA while her mom helps out as much as she can with the activities. The Waltons have nothing over the Tucker-Mohl family.

As we walk down the hall now, we can raise our heads with pride. We know Jessica Tucker-Mohl, athlete and student extraordinaire. Come spring, Jess hopes to stand at the podium and address the senior class about the things we have done in the last four years. We can look up at her now and we will be looking up at her in future years with admiration because she has lived a life that most of us can only dream of. Good luck Jess...we'll be watching in July to see



Yearbook photo

Jessica Tucker-Mohl demonstrating her potential Olympic swimming ability.

Profile:

Dan Kowal--Baseball Fame at OR

By Ben Valentine

A professional athlete at Oyster River? For Dan Kowal this is possible. Kowal could be signing on the dotted line of a professional baseball contract with the Braves, Rockies, Red Sox or the Royals, provided he is drafted within the first 15 rounds of the June MLB draft. If not, he will play college ball at Tennessee,

Clemson, Maine, or Florida Southern.

"My parents want me to go to college, but in the end it's my decision," said Kowal.

Dan would prefer to go to the big leagues, clearly, and the scouts predict him to be drafted within the first 15 rounds.

Dan has been playing baseball since he was 4 and has been playing for the varsity baseball team since his freshman year, when he played third base. Ironically, he didn't start pitching for varsity until his sophomore year. Last year (his junior year) he was the ace of the rotation. Dan has always been an

Both Taylor and Tagliaferro agree that Kowal's great athletic ability and natural talents will get him far in pro ball.

What attracts scouts to Dan Kowal is, "His size," according to Taylor. "That is what makes him such a dominant pitcher; he's 6'5". Another of one of Dan's talents is his hitting ability. "The Braves and the Rockies are drafting me for my hitting ability, but the Red Sox and the Royals don't know I can hit."

"I'd rather be drafted by a National League team, so I'll get a chance to hit, but I kind of grew up following the Red Sox, so I wouldn't mind signing with them," said Kowal. This season, Dan will be under immense pressure. "I hope the pressure will make him perform better," said

Christmas Vacation Calendar (12/25-12/29)

December 25: Christmas Day

December 26: Boys' Basketball tournament in Manchester.

December 27: Boys' Basketball tournament in Manchester continued.

Varsity Hockey Tournament in Rochester.

December 28: Boys' Basketball tournament in Manchester continued.

Varsity Hockey Tournament in Rochester continued.

Girls' Basketball tournament at home. 6:00 p.m.
Junior Varsity, 7:45 Varsity.

December 29: Girls' Basketball tournament at home continued. 6:00 p.m. Junior Varsity, 7:45 Varsity.

December 31: First Night in Portsmouth. Buy your pins from SADD.

January 2: Students back to school.

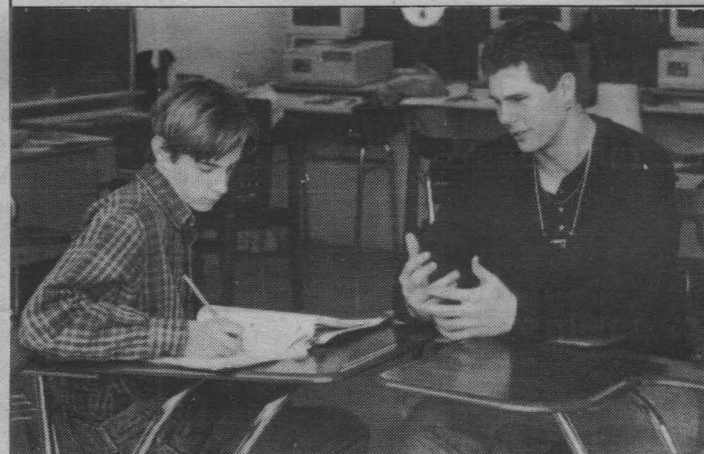


Photo by Aubree Nygren

Dan Kowal during an interview with Ben Valentine.

intense player. "His work habits are contagious" said senior Brad Taylor. Taylor also credits Dan with being "by far the best pitcher on our team."

"When he's on his game, he gives us confidence," said teammate Brian Tagliaferro.

Tagliaferro. "Sure I'll be under pressure; I'll have scouts watching my every move," said Kowal.

Not only the pressures of the scouts are on Dan's mind, but also the expectations of his friends and family. Yet, despite all the pressures, Dan is enthusiastic about playing professional baseball. "It's every kid's dream."

Swimmers Look For Title

By Kelly Watson

The Oyster River Swim team enters another season with high expectations from both coaches Bill Revees, Mike Parroto, and the team members. This year should be a strong one due to the determination and drive of the returning swimmers. "The fact that we have enough dedication to get up early in the morning, shows we have the spirit [to make it all the way]," said sophomore Jeannemarie Celentano.

Everyone on the team seems to have high expectations of themselves and of the team as a whole. "We are looking forward to another successful season. We believe we can win it all," said junior Jeff Maclean. Amanda Crocker, the lone diver, has her work cut out for her. Her dives will be an important part of pulling off wins against the strong competitors like Exeter and St. Thomas, the team's long time rivals. Crocker has the necessary eleven dives so she can participate in the final meet. She is now learning harder dives to gain more points according to the difficulty of the dives. Crocker doesn't practice in the



Micheal Parsons dives in during practice races at the Dover pool.

morning with the rest of the OR team, instead she practices at the Dover Indoor pool between 5-6 O'clock every night, except for Sundays, with the Seacoast Swimming Association. Another new member of the team is an exchange student from Australia, Kirsty Unsworth, who has had the shock of seeing snow for the first time as well as starting the school day at 5 O'clock. "It's been great to meet the people on the team, everyone seems really dedicated. I'm having a lot of fun with them!" said Unsworth. The many new freshman, including Dave Lewis and Katie Tucker-Mohl, will add significant strength

to the already strong team. The team throws several returning swimmers back into the pool such as Robyn Jerard, Barry Croker, Christine Gottschneider, Cristin Jenkins, and Scott Martin. Also included in the team are nationally recognized swimmers Jessica Tucker-Mohl and Mike Lewis. "We have a really strong team this year. The upperclassmen are good leading the team to victory this season," said junior Kate Sanders. All the swimmers play an important role in the team's success. The strength of the upperclassmen will be a major factor in the first meet of the season Dec. 22, in Manchester.

Hoping For Strong Performance From 15 New Distance Runners

By Doug Pitman

The winter track team hits the field house again, for another exciting season. This years team is predicted to be lead by distance runners. Reasons for this include the addition of 15 members from the Cross Country Team, and the history of strength in distance runners. "We have larger teams this year and more talent," said coach Scascitelli. A major contribution to the team this year is Beth Kraft who already holds two records in the 1500 meter and 1000 meter races. From Captain John March's stated, "Distance is the heart of the track team." Sprinting is also an up and coming force this season according to track members. Robin Rice said "The sprinters are strong compared to other seasons." This event will help to support the distance runners in the meets.

"Records to watch for this season are the 3000 meter by Beth Kraft, and the 55 meter dash or 300 meter by Pat Lamoue," said coach Scascitelli. What about other events like high jump and pole vault? Why are these events so weak? "Without the facilities we can't compete in these events. It takes daily practice, we have people that can do it but they can't practice." "If we had more facilities track might be more interesting to the students," said Lucia Nazzaro. Aspirations for the team are individual. Everyone is striving for their own goals. Most members just want to place consistently. "The team goals are to place in the top five at class I-M-S meets," said coach Scascitelli. "I just want to place in the meets," said March. The first meet was December 16 at the U.N.H. field house.

Sports Briefs

By Lesley Folensbee

recent game ended in a loss by 1 point to rival Somersworth, last week.

Girls J.V Basketball: JV Ice Hockey:

With a 3-1 record, the girls team is on their way to another victorious season. The team is led by sophomores Jen Swett, Laura Hallisey, and Casey Hopkins. These three girls are veterans who add their experience as well as their dedication to the team. In their first two games, the bobcats had over 50 points leaving their opponents, Bishop Brady and Merrimack Valley in the dust. They are coached by Steve Tullar who is back for his third season as their coach as well as assistant coach of the varsity squad. The team makes an unbelievable combination and looks forward to the next couple of years together.

As the team skates onto the brand new ice in Towse Arena, they are in for an exciting season. Early morning practices keep these guys busy, as well as their difficult schedule. They face two top teams this year, Exeter and Manchester Central, but are looking forward to the challenge. The team's backbone is the formed by the abundance of sophomores such as Nick Curtis, Derek Fox, and Eliot Jenkins. Before you go to see the varsity team warm up on the ice, stop by early and watch the JV team skate to victory.

Cheerleading:

The Oyster River cheerleaders open their season with completely clean slate. They have a new coach, new cheers, and new girls. Their new coach, Connie Hiller, coaches at Dover Junior High, Dover High and Oyster River all at the same time.

"Everything she does involves cheerleading," said junior cheerer Jenn Kocsmeirsky. The team has gone to two clinics so far this year. The first one that they went to was at Sanborn Regional High School, on October 22. This clinic focused on NCA cheers, and one new dance routine. The second on they attended was on December 10, at Dover High School. This clinic focused on stunts. The girls learned on a total of 29 new cheers, 1 new dance, and 2 new half time cheers. Coach Hiller decided that she wasn't going to use any old cheers.

Boys JV Basketball:

With the combination of juniors as well as freshmen on the J.V squad, OR boys basketball should remain a powerhouse in the upcoming years. Because of the loss of several seniors on the varsity team next year, many of these boys will step up to take the place on a championship team. Led by returning players Matt Harmony, Rory Robertson, and Aaron Ward the team combines outside shooting and rebounding as well as dexterity. Coach Dutkowski returns for another year as JV coach. He is able to keep the spirit and dedication alive among the players. This years team also adds the talent of freshmen Joe Beland, John Gagnon, Chris Gowell, and Matt Jenkins. The teams most

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Bobcat Sports

Close Games, Hopeful Season

By Adam Crawford

The Girl's basketball team has started out on a better track than they did last year. At Stevens High School on Friday, December 15, the Bobcats were tied until 45 seconds left to go but were eventually defeated 48-41.

The bobcats lost to Stevens last year by 30 points. The score of this game and the other three they have played this year do not reflect the hard work and dedication of the players. The last three games have been lost in only the last minute of the game. Last week, the girls lost to perpetual powerhouse Somersworth by only 5 points.

Captain Krista Poole is impressed with the team this year. She said the

low scoring was due to strong defense from both teams. "Everyone contributes on the court," said Poole. "We're having better communication than last year. We're not just a team this year, we're good friends."

Athletic director David Nichols said the team appeared to be off to a strong start. He also stated that the team is quicker and they play stronger defense with the help of some younger players.

Coach Cathy Beker said: "I try to run offenses and defenses that gear around the individual strengths of the players. I have very structured practices and the players know what is expected of them. There are no secrets and we all know that in order to

be successful, members of the team must make a maximum effort each and everyday of the season."

This being only the second week of the game schedule, Baker is very pleased with the team so far. "We are currently 1-3 and I have seen much improvement over the past five weeks of practice."

Coach Baker also said that "specific areas that need improvement are offensive and defensive rebounding. At times my players could want the basketball in their possession more. Individually I want my players to be focused and know all the plays, physically I know we can compete with the best of teams. Winning of-



Photo by Lesley Follensbee

Nicole Wojick and Karen Mengers-O'Brien playing defense.

ten comes down to who knows what to do--and when--and I think the goal of the season is to be one of the twelve teams playing during February vacation. What type of the record

is needed to have that happen I am not sure. What I do know is that the team needs to be ready each game and we need as many wins as possible to be one of twelve."



New Outlook Comes With New Arena

By Desi Collins

The Oyster River High School Hockey team won 2-1 Monday evening, at the Whittemore Center against Exeter.

On Wednesday, December 13, the hockey team played the first game of the season at the Whittemore Center, the new arena in Durham. The Oyster River High School is the first team to play at the new arena. They fought strong til the third period, when Manchester Central scored leading the final score to 3-2. Oyster River's goalie, Rich Turcotte, played an outstanding game which helped keep the team in the game. Oyster River played with a lot of determination.

According to the Varsity coach, Guy Smith, "This years' team is a young team which is lead by Captain, Brian Tagliaferro and Assistant captains Sean Morarity and Drew Evans. Having such a young team can be an advantage, but on the other side of the coin a disadvantage. It's to our advantage because we can

build upon the youth, but than the disadvantage is that with such a young team there is some unexperience."

Brian Tagliaferro, center, who assisted goals to both Chris Merenda and Scott Frey in the December 13 game, says, "There should be a lot of parody in the league this year. I feel that if we work together and shut down the opposition consistently, we can be a very successful." The game on the 13 showed that to be true.

The team did manage to raise enough money to be able to practice and play their home games on the Olympic size rink. Guy Smith, feels that "the new rink is convenient. Having the facility makes practices consistent and steady, instead of having to scrounge for ice time like in past years." He also said that "the ice surface is bigger, but I don't know yet how that fits in right now with the other teams."

Team member Dwayne Doucette feels that "it is incredible; the ice is nice. We will definately be in good shape because of the bigger ice surface."

Boys' Varsity Basketball:

Working Towards Another Championship Season

By Sean Burke

The boys' varsity basketball team started their season with a 93-51 win over Stevens High School on Friday, December 15.

The game started off with the Bobcats in third gear and Stevens matching O.R. basket for basket. The pace picked up in the second quarter, but the big point spread began in the second half with the Bobcats pouring on the steam and working like a well-oiled machine.

Senior Keith Friel led all scores with 18 points. Junior Greg Friel had 16 points while Brad Taylor, Keith Courtemanche, and Mike Casey chipped in for 10 points each. This was the Bobcats' second win this season. The first one was Somersworth which ended in a 97-45 rout.

The team is coming off an impressive Class I State Championship last year over Lebanon. "I still think about it everyday," said senior Brad Taylor. "It's the best feeling in the world."

The Bobcats went 20-1 last year with their one loss from Timberlane late in the season. The team is expected by many spectators to be as good or even better in the 95-96 season.

"We have improved on both sides of the game," said Taylor, "our defense is much stronger. We have a few kinks in our offense but it should work out as the season continues." The team lost very few seniors, and with the addition of 3 more players to the roster the team is basically the same.

"We know each others moves and I think we'll work with each other better than last year," said Senior Keith Courtemanche.

A new addition to the team is freshman player Mike Casey. Casey should get significant playing time



Brad Taylor makes a lay-up in prepping for the Stevens game.

and will be a valuable player in the next four years. He is noted for his rebounding skills as well as his low post playing.

Casey scored 12 points against Somersworth, and 10 against Stevens. According to spectator Mike Beland, junior at Oyster River, "he had the nicest pass of the game Friday night to Sherif Farag."

Tough opponents this year include Bishop Brady, who didn't lose any seniors, and Timberlane who will try

to beat the team one more time. "Team unity has been a problem in the past but it won't be this year," said Taylor.

The team hopes to do well in their Christmas Tournament, held in Manchester from December 26 through the 28. They will be competing against the Class L teams. Some of the teams that will be there are: Manchester West, Manchester Central, Goffstown, and Manchester Memorial.